

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-11 are now pending in this application. Claims 1, 4, 7 and 10 are the independent claims.

Independent Claims 1-8 have been amended. Claims 9-11 are newly-presented. No new matter is believed to have been added.

Initially, Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that Claims 1-6 have been allowed. By the present amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 1-6. However, Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to Claims 1-6 do not affect the allowability of these claims. Thus it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-6 remain allowable.

The specification has been amended to even better describe the present invention. Favorable consideration is requested.

Claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,694,088 (Gallagher, et al.). This rejection respectfully traversed.

In one aspect of the present invention, independent Claim 7 recites features of a measuring method including arranging an object to be measured, measuring a wavefront of a first linearly polarized light from the object to be measured, and measuring a wavefront of a second linearly polarized light from the object to be measured. In the measuring method, the polarization orientation of the first and second linearly polarized lights differ.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that Gallagher, et al. does not teach all of the aforementioned features of independent Claim 7.

Gallagher, et al. relates to wavefront measurement and discloses an interferometer with a rotatable quarter waveplate 35 that, when rotated, changes the phase relation between a reference beam 30 and an information beam 40. Specifically, Gallagher, et al. teaches that the change is effected by rotating the quarter waveplate about an axis parallel to the direction of propagation of the reference beam. (Gallagher, et al., Col 3, lines 46-52). Gallagher et al. also teaches that the information beam is ordinarily plane polarized. (Gallagher, et al., Col 3, lines 1-6). However, Gallagher, et al. does not teach or suggest at least the feature of differing polarization orientation of the first and second linearly polarized lights.

Thus, independent Claim 7 is patentable over the citation of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102 rejection are respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully submits that newly-presented independent Claim 10 is allowable over the citation of record. Specifically, Applicant respectfully submits that Gallagher, et al. does not teach or suggest at least the feature of a polarization orientation changing means for changing a polarization orientation of polarized light incident on an object to be measured.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1, 4, 7 and 10. The dependent claims are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present

invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicant earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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